

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please add the following *new* paragraph on page 1, between lines 2 and 3:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This U.S. National stage application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. §119(a) to Japanese Patent Application No. 2003-412795, filed in Japan on December 11, 2003, the entire contents of which are hereby incorporated herein by reference.

Please replace the heading at page 7, line 9, with the following rewritten version:

**~~BEST MODES FOR CARRYING OUT~~ DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE
INVENTION**

Please replace paragraph [0010] beginning at page 2, line 24 with the following rewritten version:

[0010] ~~Specifically, A compressor pertaining to a first aspect of the present invention is~~
~~problem-solving means is based on the premise that a compressor that includes: a~~
~~compression mechanism (20), in which a discharge port (29) is formed, for compressing~~
~~configured to compress fluid, the compression mechanism including a discharge port; a reed~~
~~valve (41); and a valve retainer (42) for the reed valve (41), coupling the reed valve (41) and~~
~~the valve retainer (42) being provided at the discharge port (29). Wherein at~~ At least part of
the valve retainer (42) is composed of a shape varying member (50) that varies in shape by in
response to an external input force so as to change an opening/closing state of the reed valve
(41).

Please replace paragraph [0011] beginning at page 3, line 4 with the following rewritten version:

[0011] In the ~~above problem-solving means~~ first aspect of the present invention, the opening/closing state of the reed valve (41) is changed appropriately to the operation speed (volume) by controlling shape variation of the shape varying member (50). For example, when the lift amount of the reed valve (41) is changed by shape variation of the shape varying member (50), the opening of the reed valve (41) is set appropriately to a discharge rate. This reduces discharge pressure loss and the like.

Please replace paragraph [0013] beginning at page 3, line 15 with the following rewritten version:

[0013] ~~Referring to~~ A second aspect of the present invention is the compressor according to ~~problem-solving means, in the first aspect of the present invention, wherein problem-solving means,~~ the valve retainer (42) includes a valve fixing part (42a) for fixing a fixed part (41a) of the reed valve (41) and a curved guiding part (42b) for restricting a valve part (41b) of the reed valve (41) to a lift amount. Further, at least part of the guiding part (42b) is composed of the shape varying member (50) so as to change the lift amount of the valve part (41b) of the reed valve (41).

Please replace paragraph [0014] beginning at page 3, line 21 with the following rewritten version:

[0014] In the ~~above problem-solving means~~ second aspect of the present invention, the shape varying member (50) of the guiding member (42b) of the valve retainer (42) is varied in shape to change at least the lift amount of the valve part (41b) of the reed valve (41), thereby changing the opening/closing state of the reed valve (41) reliably.

Please replace paragraph [0015] beginning at page 3, line 25 with the following rewritten version:

[0015] ~~Referring to~~ A third aspect of the present invention is the compressor according to ~~problem-solving means, in the second aspect of the present invention, wherein problem~~

~~solving means~~, the shape varying member (50) of the guiding part (42b) changes in a warp amount so as to change ~~the~~ a curve.

Please replace paragraph [0016] beginning at page 4, line 1 with the following rewritten version:

[0016] In the ~~above problem-solving means~~ third aspect of the present invention, the warp amount of the shape varying member (50) is changed to change the curve of the guiding part (42b), thereby changing the lift amount of the valve part (41b) of the reed valve (41).

Please replace paragraph [0017] beginning at page 4, line 4 with the following rewritten version:

[0017] ~~Referring to A~~ A fourth aspect of the present invention is the compressor according to ~~problem-solving means~~, in the first aspect of the present invention, wherein ~~problem-solving means~~, the valve retainer (42) includes a valve fixing part (42a) for fixing a fixed part (41a) of the reed valve (41) and a curved guiding part (42b) for restricting a valve part (41b) of the reed valve (41) to a lift amount. Further, at least part of the valve fixing part (42a) is ~~composed of~~ forms the shape varying member (50) so as to change a rigidity of the reed valve (41).

Please replace paragraph [0018] beginning at page 4, line 9 with the following rewritten version:

[0018] In the ~~above problem-solving means~~ fourth aspect of the present invention, the shape varying member (50) of the valve fixing part (42a) of the valve retainer (42) varies in shape to change at least the rigidity of the reed valve (41), thereby changing the opening/closing state of the reed valve (41) reliably.

Please replace paragraph [0019] beginning at page 4, line 13 with the following rewritten version:

~~solving means~~, the shape varying member (50) of the valve fixing part (42a) expands or contracts in length so as to change a fixed length of the reed valve (41).

Please replace paragraph [0020] beginning at page 4, line 16 with the following rewritten version:

[0020] In the ~~above problem-solving means~~ fifth aspect of the present invention, the shape varying member (50) is allowed to expand or contract to change the fixed length of the reed valve (41), thereby changing the rigidity of the reed valve (41).

Please replace paragraph [0021] beginning at page 4, line 19 with the following rewritten version:

[0021] ~~Referring to A~~ sixth aspect of the present invention is the compressor according to ~~problem-solving means, in the first aspect of the present invention, wherein problem-solving means~~, the shape varying member (50) is formed of a polymer actuator.

Please replace paragraph [0022] beginning at page 4, line 21 with the following rewritten version:

[0022] In the ~~above problem-solving means~~ sixth aspect of the present invention, the shape varying member (50) is formed of the polymer actuator (50), resulting in reliable change in opening/closing state of the reed valve (41).

Please replace paragraph [0023] beginning at page 4, line 24 with the following rewritten version:

[0023] ~~-Effects-~~

In the first ~~problem-solving means~~ aspect of the present invention, at least part of the valve retainer (42) is formed of the shape varying member (50) to change the opening/closing state of the reed valve (41). Accordingly, the shape variation of the shape varying member

(50) can be controlled in response to the operation speed over the range from low speed to high speed, enabling appropriate control of the opening/closing state of the reed valve (41), for example, the lift amount, responsiveness, or the like thereof in response to the operation speed. This suppresses discharge pressure loss, which is caused due to lift amount, and opening/closing delay, which is caused due to responsiveness. As a result, the operation efficiency is improved.

Please replace paragraph [0025] beginning at page 5, line 10 with the following rewritten version:

[0025] In the second ~~problem-solving means~~ aspect of the present invention, at least part of the guiding part (42b) of the valve retainer (42) is formed of the shape varying member (50) to change the lift amount of the valve part (41b) of the reed valve (41). This attains appropriate and reliable control of at least the lift amount of the reed valve (41) in response to the operation speed, thereby surely reducing the discharge pressure loss.

Please replace paragraph [0027] beginning at page 5, line 20 with the following rewritten version:

[0027] In the third ~~problem-solving means~~ aspect of the present invention, the warp amount of the shape varying member (50) is changed to change the curve of the guiding part (42b) of the valve retainer (42), changing the lift amount of the reed valve (41) reliably.

Please replace paragraph [0028] beginning at page 5, line 23 with the following rewritten version:

[0028] In the fourth ~~problem-solving means~~ aspect of the present invention, at least part of the valve fixing part (42a) of the valve retainer (42) is formed of the shape varying member (50) to change the rigidity of the reed valve (41). Therefore, at least the rigidity of the reed valve (41), that is, opening/closing force can be controlled appropriately and reliably in response to the operation speed. This enhances the responsiveness at closing start with the

increased opening/closing force in the high speed operation while enhancing responsiveness at opening start with the decreased opening/closing force in the low speed operation. As a result, the generally-called closing delay and opening delay of the reed valve (41) can be suppressed, improving efficiency.

Please replace paragraph [0029] beginning at page 6, line 5 with the following rewritten version:

[0029] In the fifth ~~problem-solving means~~ aspect of the present invention, the shape varying member (50) is allowed to expand or contract to change the fixed length of the reed valve (41), thereby changing the rigidity of the reed valve (41) reliably.

Please change the heading at page 19, line 1 as follows:

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS: CLAIMS